

# Democrat & Chronicle

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## NEWS

# New marina at Port of Rochester opens

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Describing the Port of Rochester as the "Port of Opportunity," Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren gave the opening remarks to Monday's ceremonial ribbon cutting for the city's new marina.

"If you try to remember, just 2 1/2 years ago, you would be looking at a sea of asphalt," said Warren, as she stood at the overview of the marina.

Located immediately west of the Port of Rochester Terminal Building, the marina, which is almost five acres, has slips for 84 boats.

Creating a marina has been an idea kicking around for at least 50 years. Near the podium at Monday's news conference was a poster showing plans — never implemented — from 1965 for a marina in the same area.

Warren and other speakers told of the economic opportunities — most notably making the area a tourist attraction — that developing the waterfront provides.

"The marina will help position our city as a Great Lakes destination," Warren said.

Stephen Burnett, executive director of the Great Lakes Cruising Coalition Inc., told how Rochester is the "first port of call" for cruise ships coming down the St. Lawrence Seaway.

"We tend to think of a cruise ship as a traveling bank vault," he said, noting the potential for people on cruise ships to spend time and money in a local community.

After the ribbon cutting, Warren led a media tour of the Grande Mariner Great Lakes cruise ship, docked at the port.

Funding sources for the project included proceeds from the sale of the Hemlock and Canadice lakes watershed to the state, federal and state grants, and the city's capital improvement program.

Fifty-four of the boat slips in the marina are being rented on a seasonal basis, beginning at \$2,800. Twenty-two slips have already been rented.

The remaining 30 slips are rented on a short-term basis up to two weeks.

Check out designs for Port of Rochester development

The cost for the marina project is \$22 million. Much of the excavated slag from the marina has been trucked to Lexington Street, where it was used to create a pad for a solar farm planned on a former city-owned landfill.

The marina was originally scheduled to open in the spring of 2015, but issues between the original contractor, The Pike Co., and the city about soil conditions at the site, as well as the cost and design of the project, caused a parting of the ways.

As a result, the city hired Spencerport-based Crane-Hogan to finish excavating the basin.

Related plans are in the works for a private developer to construct a 10-story building with a hotel, condominiums and some commercial space on what is now city-owned land.

Developer tweaks port plan, faces deadline

The 129,000-square-foot building, located on vacant land at the southeast corner of Lake Avenue and Corrigan Street, will cost about \$40 million.

The city's plans for the area have drawn opposition from some residents in the group Charlotte Strong who questioned the viability and site of the project.

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul told at Monday's ribbon cutting how people are attracted to waterfront areas.

"There is going to be a hot spot in Rochester," she said.

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